Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Original) A method for testing an application comprising:

assigning a first logical name to a first target system,

associating with the first logical name of the first target system a first communication channel and a second communication channel;

executing a test script having one or more commands for testing the application;

in response to encountering a first command within the test script that identifies the first target system with the first logical name, detecting a command type of the command, and selecting between the first communication channel and the second communication channel based on the detected type of command; and

executing the first command on the application on the first target system using the selected communication channel.

2.   (Original) The method as in claim 1 wherein the first communication channel comprises a remote function call ("RFC") communication channel and wherein the second communication channel comprises a hypertext transport protocol ("HTTP") communication channel.

3.   (Original) The method as in claim 2 wherein the first command type a function call directed at a functional module of the application and wherein the first communication channel is selected in response to the function call.

4.   (Original) The method as in claim 2 wherein the first command type is a presentation layer command directed at a presentation layer associated with the application and wherein the second communication channel is selected in response to the presentation layer command.

5.   (Original) The method as in claim 1 further comprising:

in response to encountering a second command within the test script that identifies the first target system with the first logical name, detecting a type of the second command, and selecting between the first communication channel and the second communication channel based on what type of command the second command is; and

executing the second command on the application on the first target system using the selected communication channel.

6.   (Original) The method as in claim 1 further comprising:

assigning a second logical name to a second target system,

associating with the second logical name of the second target system a third communication channel and a fourth communication channel;

in response to encountering a second command within the test script that identifies the second target system with the second logical name, detecting what type of command the second command is, and selecting between the third communication channel and the fourth communication channel based on what type of command the second command is; and

executing the second command on the application on the second target system using the selected communication channel.

7. (Original) The method as in claim 6 wherein the first communication channel is the same as the third communication channel and wherein the second communication channel is the same as the fourth communication channel.

8. (Original) A system comprising:

a test script to store one or more commands used to test applications residing on one or more target systems, the commands identifying the target systems using logical names associated with the target systems;

a system data container to associate each of the logical target system names with a plurality of communication channels for communicating with each of the target systems; and

a test control program to execute the test script, and in response to encountering a first command within the test script that identifies a first target system with a first logical name, searching the system data container to select between a first communication channel and a second communication channel associated with the first logical name, the test control program selecting between the first communication channel and the second communication channel based on the first command type.

9. (Original) The system as in claim 8 wherein the test control program executes the first command on the application on the first target system using the selected communication channel.

10. (Original) The system as in claim 8 further comprising:

a test data container to store a plurality of parameters associated with each command,

the test control program extracting the parameters from the test data container and executing each of the commands on the application a plurality of times using a different parameter for each execution.

11. (Original) The system as in claim 8 wherein the first communication channel comprises a remote function call ("RFC") communication channel and wherein the second communication channel comprises a hypertext transport protocol ("HTTP") communication channel.

12. (Original) The system as in claim 11 wherein the first command type a function call directed at a functional module of the application and wherein the first communication channel is selected in response to the function call.

13. (Original) The system as in claim 11 wherein the first command type is a presentation layer command directed at a presentation layer associated with the application and wherein the second communication channel is selected in response to the presentation layer command.

14. (Original) The system as in claim 8 wherein, the test control program, in response to encountering a second command within the test script that identifies the first target system with the first logical name, detecting the type of command that the second command is, and selecting between the first communication channel and the second communication channel from the system data container based on what type of command the second command is; and

the test control program executing the second command on the application on the first target system using the selected communication channel.

15. (Original) The system as in claim 8 wherein, the test control program, in response to encountering a second command within the test script that identifies the second target system with the second logical name, detecting what type of command the second command is, and selecting between the third communication channel and the fourth communication channel from the system data container based on what type of command the second command is; and

the test control program executing the second command on the application on the second target system using the selected communication channel.

16. (Original) The system as in claim 15 wherein the first communication channel is the same as the third communication channel and wherein the second communication channel is the same as the fourth communication channel.

17. (Original) An article of manufacture including program code which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the operations of:

assigning a first logical name to a first target system;

associating with the first logical name of the first target system a first communication channel and a second communication channel;

executing a test script having one or more commands for testing the application;

in response to encountering a first command within the test script that identifies the first target system with the first logical name, detecting a command type of the first command, and selecting between the first communication channel and the second communication channel based on the detected type of command; and

executing the first command on the application on the first target system using

the selected communication channel.

18. (Original) The article of manufacture as in claim 17 wherein the first communication channel comprises a remote function call ("RFC") communication channel and wherein the second communication channel comprises a hypertext transport protocol ("HTTP") communication channel.

19. (Original) The article of manufacture as in claim 18 wherein the first command type a function call directed at a functional module of the application and wherein the first communication channel is selected in response to the function call.

20. (Original) The article of manufacture as in claim 18 wherein the first command type is a presentation layer command directed at a presentation layer associated with the application and wherein the second communication channel is selected in response to the presentation layer command.

21. (Original) The article of manufacture as in claim 17 further comprising:

in response to encountering a second command within the test script that identifies the first target system with the first logical name, detecting the type of command that the second command is, and selecting between the first communication channel and the second communication channel based on the detected type of command that the second command is; and

executing the second command on the application on the first target system using the selected communication channel.

22. (Original) The article of manufacture as in claim 17 further comprising:

assigning a second logical name to a second target system,

associating with the second logical name of the second target system a third communication channel and a fourth communication channel;

in response to encountering a second command within the test script that identifies the second target system with the second logical name, detecting a command type of the second command, and selecting between the third communication channel and the fourth communication channel based on the detected type of command that the second command is; and

executing the second command on the application on the second target system using the selected communication channel.

23. (Original) The article of manufacture as in claim 22 wherein the first communication channel is the same as the third communication channel and wherein the second communication channel is the same as the fourth communication channel.

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